

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5    1. A method of treating a fibrotic condition wherein the transcription of an ECM gene is inhibited in a mammal, comprising
- a) administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of antisense Sp1;
- b) binding of said antisense Sp1 to an Sp1 transcript;
- 10    c) reducing Sp1 expression;
- d) inhibiting transcription of said ECM gene; and
- e) reducing accumulation of a corresponding ECM protein.
- 15    2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said antisense Sp1 has the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO: 1.
- 20    3. A recombinant expression vector, comprising a *XhoI/HindIII* DNA fragment of an Sp1 gene (SEQ. ID. NO: 1) in an antisense orientation cloned upstream of a Rous Sarcoma Virus (RSV) promoter.
- 25    4. A method of treating a fibrotic condition wherein the gene expression of an ECM gene is inhibited in a mammal, comprising
- a) administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a decoy Sp1 oligonucleotide;
- b) binding of an Sp1 transcription factor to said decoy Sp1 oligonucleotide;
- c) interfering with Sp1 binding to its target sequences;
- d) decreasing promoter activity of said ECM gene;
- e) inhibiting gene expression of said ECM gene; and
- f) reducing accumulation of a corresponding ECM protein.
- 30    5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said decoy Sp1 oligonucleotide has the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

6. A method of treating a fibrotic condition wherein the gene expression of TGF- $\beta$  is inhibited in a mammal, comprising

- a) administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a decoy Sp1 oligonucleotide;
- 5      b) binding of an Sp1 transcription factor to said decoy Sp1 oligonucleotide;
- c) interfering with Sp1 binding to its target sequences;
- d) decreasing promoter activity of said TGF- $\beta$  gene;
- e) inhibiting gene expression of said TGF- $\beta$  gene; and
- f) blocking fibrogenic properties of TGF- $\beta$ .

10

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said decoy Sp1 oligonucleotide has the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO: 2.